

DETAILED ACTION

Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
 - a. Claims 1 - 4 are allowable over the Prior Art of Record because it fails to teach or suggest a method of measuring temperature value associated with melting, softening or decomposition, comprising the steps of illuminating the support tray and the whole array of samples; imaging the array of samples by a digital device; feeding an image of the whole array to a digital computer during the temperature variation sequence; reviewing the image data using image processing software loaded in the computer to detect changes in the image of the array, at each or selected sample locations; logging the temperature of the heating device recorded in respect of an image change associated with a change in state of a sample in combination with the remaining limitations of the claims.
 - a. Claims 5 - 6 are allowable over the Prior Art of Record because it fails to teach or suggest an apparatus for measuring melting point values comprising a digital camera that can be positioned to image all samples on the support tray; means for illuminating the samples for observation by the camera; a computer to receive image data from the camera and temperature data from the sensing means on the heating block; recording means to log images of the support tray and samples and record the temperature of the heating

block; an image processing program loaded in the computer and operable to review the images received from the camera, and monitor the intensity of the image at each or selected sample locations; whereby significant changes in the images can be correlated with the temperature of the heating block in combination with the remaining limitations of the claims.

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yaritza Guadalupe McCall whose telephone number is (571)272-2244. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron Williams can be reached on (571) 272-2208. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

YGM
September 7, 2011

/YARITZA GUADALUPE-MCCALL/
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